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Handbuch der Lateinischen Laut- und Formenlehre. Von Ferdinand Sommer. Zweite und dritte Auflage. Heidelberg: Winter (1914). Pp. XXVIII + 665.

Kritische Erläuterungen zur Lateinischen Laut- und Formenlehre. Von Ferdinand Sommer. Heidelberg: Winter (1914). Pp. VIII + 203.

The new edition of Sommer's indispensable Handbuch is much improved both in plan and in content. The most noteworthy innovation is the inclusion of copious references to the literature, so that one will no longer have to use other Grammars in order to trace the discussions upon which Sommer's conclusions are based. The book has been made much easier to use by the new system of cross-references to pages instead of to the rather complicated paragraph numbers.

In spite of much skillful condensation the bulk of the material has so far increased that the discussion of 148 controversial points had to be relegated to a separate volume (Kritische Erläuterungen), which is intended solely for specialists in historical grammar. This plan relieves the Handbuch of a certain amount of argument which in the first edition proved confusing to beginners and to students of literature who referred to the book for information on special topics. At the same time the author has been able to state his case fully in the Kritische Erläuterungen whenever that seemed worth while, even though his discussion of some points runs to a length that would be inexcusable in a Grammar. It will be rather inconvenient to look through two volumes instead of one for Sommer's doctrine, but the additional information in the Kritische Erläuterungen will prove to be worth searching for.

In a surprisingly large number of instances the author has changed his opinion as a result either of other scholars' investigations or of his own further study. Some such changes mark clear and positive advances in our knowledge of the Latin language; e. g. the discoveries of Professors Dennison and Hale as to syllabification are adopted (Handbuch 280 f.), and Skutsch's explanation of the *io*-verbs of the third conjugation as due to the operation of the iambic law upon such forms as the original *capis* is supported by some effective argument (Handbuch 505 f., Kritische Erläuterungen 133 ff.) Some of the new suggestions are inevitably more or less uncertain; but, even when Sommer is not fully convincing, his discussion is almost always distinguished by good sense and scientific acumen.

No really important omissions have been noticed, although there should have been references to Professor Fay's article on *med* and *ted* (Classical Philology 4. 301-310), and the reviewer's note on *ss* from intervocalic *s* (*ibidem*, 6. 221). Sommer's attitude toward new suggestions is quite judicial even where they are opposed to his own previously expressed opinions; but in several cases he has rejected a theory which still has a good chance to live. This is notably true of Ehrlich's suggestion that unaccented original *ei* became *i* before

Plautus, of Professor Kent's vindication of Lucilius's rules about *ei* and *i*, and of the opinion of numerous scholars that classical Latin had a pitch accent.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

E. H. STURTEVANT.

Roman Cursive Writing. A Princeton University Dissertation. By Henry Bartlett Van Hoesen. Princeton: Princeton University Press (1915). Pp. viii + 268. 10 Tables and numerous tracings of Alphabets. \$2.00.

Latin paleography is rapidly becoming an American science. Dr. Loew's Beneventan Script and his forthcoming Scriptura Minuscula Antiqua, Professor Burnham's Palaeographia Iberica, and the treatises on the Insular and the Visigothic hands which are announced as soon to appear at Harvard and Yale, have a worthy fellow in this exhaustive survey of an earlier script. Mr. Van Hoesen is a pupil of Professor E. C. Richardson of Princeton, who has never forgotten, in the midst of his arduous duties as University Librarian, his fruitful devotion to Latin paleography and text-criticism.

Even in ancient Greek writing, we find side by side the formal capitals of the inscription and the book, and the running script of the letter or memorandum. In Latin, we can trace the latter hand back into the first century B. C.; Pompeii, certain Hungarian mines, and Ravenna were our principal sources of material, until the recent excavations in Egypt filled a gap of several centuries and made possible a conspectus of the development of the hand. It is troublesome to define Roman Cursive, with its marked subdivisions of Semicursive and Imperial Cursive. Mr. Van Hoesen outlines earlier attempts to mark Cursive off from Rustic Capitals and Uncial, and quotes with approval Steffens's definition, that the Cursive is a running hand, with the letters of different heights and apt to be combined into groups (ligatures). With the seventh century, which saw the change from Latin to Romance, the Cursive developed rapidly into the various national hands; so Mr. Van Hoesen closes his study with documents of 640-650 A.D.

This is not the place for a detailed critique of Mr. Van Hoesen's methods and results. Suffice it to say that he describes over a hundred papyri and other documents, giving in each case a bibliography, a list of abbreviations and a study of the form of each letter. This latter feature is supplemented by the tracings of alphabets; it is a pity that several facsimiles or even tracings of whole documents were not added, since few students will have access to reproductions of them; and nothing is so treacherous a guide for a beginner as a scheme of shapes of letters. The trained paleographer will find the book of great value and suggestiveness, and it will be indispensable for every future effort to date a document in Roman script.

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